

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction between two species of the claimed invention.

Applicants hereby elect, for immediate prosecution, the claims of Group I, namely the claims reciting a polysaccharide.

The claims readable on the elected species are Claims 1-9, 11, 14, and 20-41.

Although Applicants do not formally traverse the requirement for restriction, Applicants note that the two groups of claims are related, insofar as there is overlap between compounds that are "polysaccharides" and compounds that are "hydrophilic" or "biocompatible". Therefore, Applicants believe that both groups of claims could be efficiently searched at the same time.

Applicants have discovered a typographical error on page 11 of the specification. This Preliminary Amendment replaces the word "glycoasminoglycans" with "glycosaminoglycans".

Also, Applicants have amended Claim 31 to make its language more clear. No new matter has been added.

Applicants request that the application be examined as amended herein.